

TRANSPORTATION ACCESS TO JAMESTOWN FROM THE NECK OF LAND GATEWAY


Clarity of access and movement is crucial to the visitor. They need both assurances and choices; vehicular access, parking, inner Jamestown circulation, and alternative modes of movement must be easily understood.

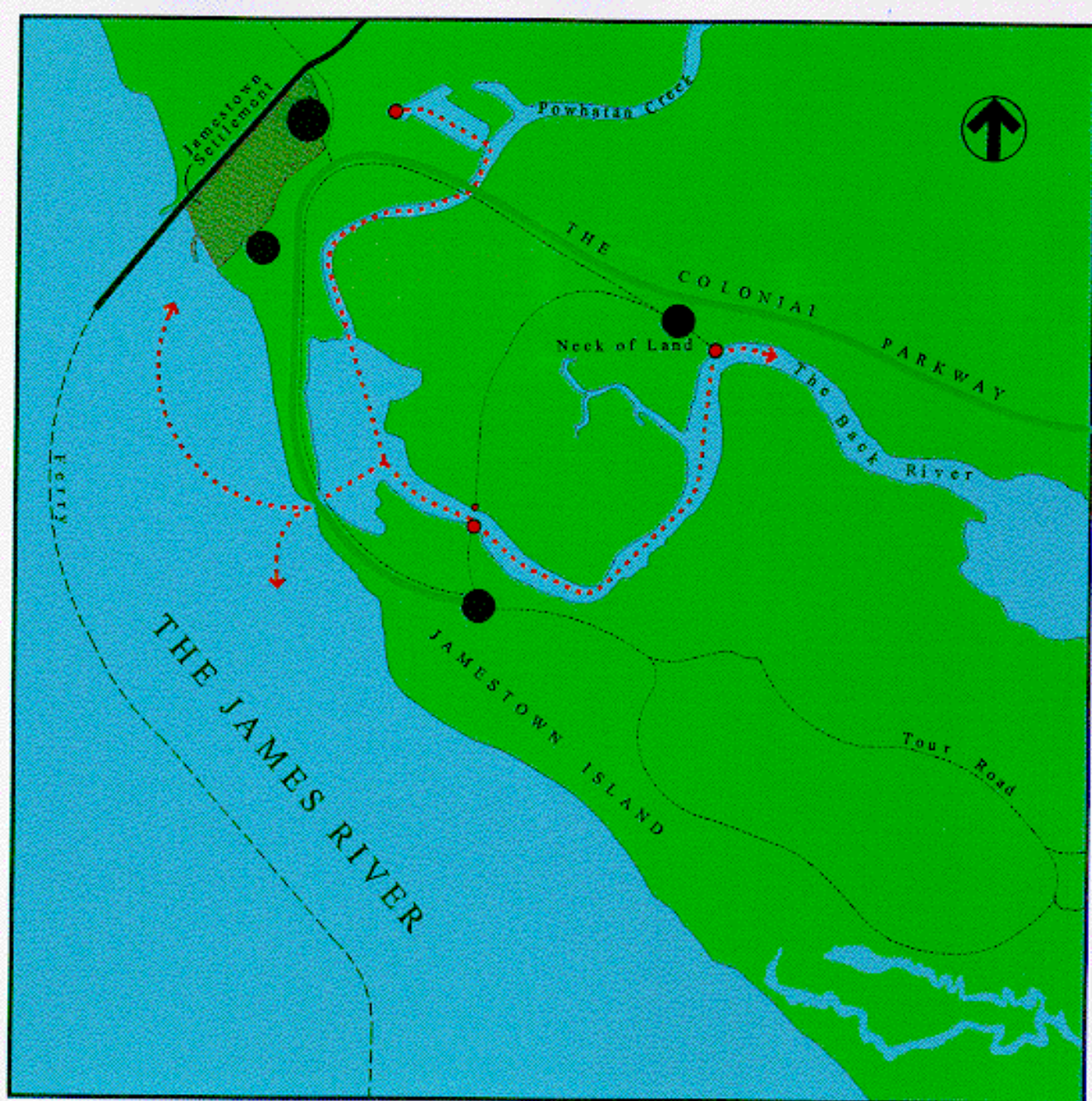
The “entrances” are the location of vehicular access, parking, and bus accommodation. “The Neck of Land Gateway” (1) complements these entrances by providing additional parking and two other modes of movement – bicycles and boats. The third ingredient of the access scheme is a shuttle bus that connects the three sites. This allows the visitor to visit more than one venue without moving the car. The fourth ingredient is a shuttle that connects the three sites to Colonial Williamsburg and Yorktown. The boat dock on Jamestown Island is represented by site mark (2).



Overall Site Concept

KEY

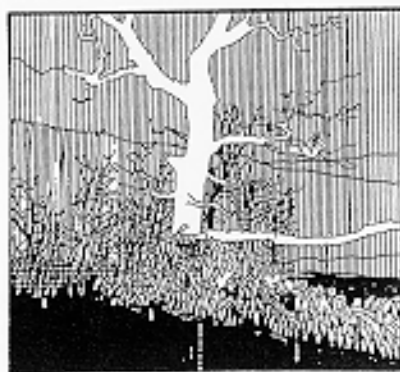
-  Parking
-  Boat Route
-  Boat Landing
-  Bicycle/
Pedestrian Paths



0 1500 3000 FEET

THE ISLAND EXPERIENCE

The Entrances



The Colonial Parkway now ends in a parking lot. The existing visitor center compromises the visitors' experience of the 1607 fort and New Towne sites. Because a single visitor center for all Jamestown venues—on and off Island—is unwieldy given the physical distances and institutional identities involved, this plan creates a new “entrance” to the Island and a new joint APVA-NPS visitor center west and south of the existing parking lot.

The Colonial Parkway would then terminate in a ceremonial drop off with an “entrance” formed by the new facility and its new landscaping. The road would be rerouted to the north, servicing the parking lot and feeding the Island loop road. The bike trail and the boat landing would connect directly to this “entrance.” Buses and trams would drop off visitors at this “entrance,” with the buses going on to a parking area to the east. A covered shelter will be developed to serve as a collector for the visitors arriving by each of the modes and it would direct them through the Discovery Center and along the path to the sites.

Reception and Transition

The visitor center forms one side of the “entrance.” It will be divided, with toilets and museum store immediately available to departing visitors waiting for buses or tram, and with the interpretation and research spaces on the other side. The Center will be further subdivided with education spaces, offices, and support located to the west of the path. This grouping may also include the APVA's and NPS's study and artifact storage area. The subdivision of the facility reduces its scale and allows its mass to be distributed. The path itself will become a bridge as it traverses the wetlands. The bridge will be bent at a number of points along the route to the sites with its changes in direction creating a feeling of the “unpredictable.” The points of bending selected will provide various vistas for visitors to discover.

Moving Through the Site

Arriving at the end of the pedestrian bridge, visitors are near the fort site. Depending on the visitors' interest and the time available, they can visit the fort and leave, circulate down to the Statehouse area and/or tour the New Towne. If visitors tour the entire site they would walk two loops, a longer and a shorter one.

“Refreshment Triangle”

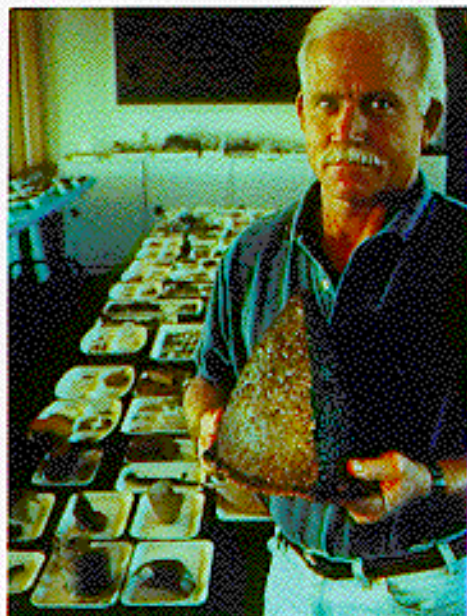
The Dale House and a proposed facility at the east end of the townsite will provide food and beverage as well as toilets. The roof terrace of the new facility will be a viewing platform to allow visitors to see the layout of the townsite; it will not be conditioned. These two structures along with the Jamestown Island Discovery Center will create a “Refreshment Triangle” for visitors. Servicing these facilities will be scheduled to avoid conflict with visitors.

The Jamestown Island Discovery Center

A good deal of detailed programming work must be done before the Jamestown Island Discovery Center can be designed. Nonetheless, given the on-going archeological program on the Island, the collections should be maintained there, protected, and available for analysis and study.

As illustrated on the plan, the Center will use both new facilities (part 1) and existing facilities (part 2). The two parts of the Center will be linked together across a narrow wetland by a new walkway and an existing service road. The entrance and first part of the Center will occupy the highest ground on the western end of the existing parking area and will house the important Jamestown Island Archeological Collections.

The second part of the Center will be located a short distance away to the south. This part of the Center will include the recently expanded Yeardley House, which will be used for offices, conference space, and a library. Nearby, there will be a field support building that will replace and expand an existing garage and shed. All of the parts of the Jamestown Island Discovery Center will be connected by an existing service road and a new walkway.



Dr. William Kelso holds a 17th-century helmet found at the 1607 Jamestown Fort site pictured on the right. The thin yellow stakes parallel to the James River's edge indicate the position of one outer wall of the Fort. The master plan envisions a sensitive and creative articulation of the Fort's historic footprint.

